southwest key programs

National Headquarters
6002 Jain Lane • Austin, Texas 78721
phone: 512.462.2181 • fax: 512.462.2028 • www.swkey.org

Juan José Sánchez, Ed.D.
El Presidente/CEO
Austin, Texas

our mission
nuestra misión

Opening doors to opportunity so individuals can achieve their dreams

Abriendo puertas de oportunidad para que todas las personas logren sus sueños

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August 10, 2018

Mr. Mark Savasta
Houston Building Official
Houston Permitting Center
1002 Washington Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

Via CMRR & e-mail:mark.savasta@houstontx.gov

Mr. Samuel Peña
Fire Chief
Houston Fire Department
1801 Smith Street, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77002

Via CMRR & email:samuel.pena@houstontx.gov

Re: 419 Emancipation Certificate of Occupancy

Dear Mr. Peña & Savasta:

Southwest Key is in receipt of your correspondence dated August 3, 2018. I am writing on behalf of Southwest Key to clear up apparent misunderstandings regarding the use of the 419 Emancipation facility ("Emancipation facility"). Additionally, I am seeking clarification regarding the facility's certificate of occupancy.

The United States is experiencing an influx of unaccompanied minors crossing the border. The Emancipation facility is intended to provide compassionate child care to these unaccompanied minors between the ages 6 and 17. The Office of Refugee and Resettlement has agreed that no child under the age of six will be housed at the Emancipation facility. The shelter is **not** for housing or detaining minors separated from their parents and/or guardians as your letter indicates. Southwest Key has made it abundantly clear that we do not support separating families and we have worked diligently to reunite families.

Your correspondence also states that the city issued Certificate of Occupancy for the Emancipation facility is "invalid." The meaning of "invalid" is unclear. Are we to understand through your correspondence you have revoked the Certificate of Occupancy? If our Certificate of Occupancy is not revoked, we would request that you

EXHIBIT 9

notify the Texas Department of Health and Human Services of such as we understand you have informed them that we do not have a valid Certificate of Occupancy.

I appreciate your prompt response to this letter. Should you not respond within twenty-four hours we will consider our Certificate of Occupancy valid. To accelerate communication, you may reach me via e-mail at dbrock@swkey.org, or via telephone at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Brock